

build innovative thinking and flexibility into the procurement process, and “the key is to make sure that the strategy and risk assessment drive the procurement, rather than the other way around.”

This is why we must institutionalize these changes into the procurement process which must be flexible enough to respond to developments on the ground and better equip our troops to engage in counterinsurgency.

I wish we had the procurement system set up under this bill years ago, but it is never too late to institute needed change. I thank the authors, Senator LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN, of this important initiative and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DOMESTIC AUTO INDUSTRY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is critically important to the country and to my State of Wisconsin that we do everything we can to preserve an American auto manufacturing industry. The domestic auto industry has been vital to the economic development of Wisconsin for much of the last century, but that industry is undergoing a rapid restructuring right now, and I am very concerned about how this restructuring will affect communities in Wisconsin.

We need an American auto industry, but it can't be American in name only. American jobs must be protected. Unfortunately, the auto restructuring plans that have been put forward contain proposals that ship jobs overseas. That is not acceptable to me or to my constituents. The taxpayer dollars that are propping up the industry should be used to preserve family-supporting jobs in Wisconsin and around the country.

My State of Wisconsin has been hard hit by the troubles in the auto industry over the past year. There are two major auto plants located in my State—a General Motors plant in my hometown of Janesville, and a Chrysler engine plant in Kenosha. In addition, there are a dozen companies in Wisconsin that support these two plants, including supply companies and car dealers.

Both the Janesville and Kenosha plants have received grim news from GM and Chrysler over the past year, including last year's announcement that production would cease at the GM Janesville plant and this week's statement that the Kenosha engine plant would close at the end of 2010.

The Wisconsin community, including workers, economic development officials, technical colleges, workforce development groups, Governor Doyle, the Federal congressional delegation, and others have mobilized to assist these communities in the larger region in responding to this troubling news from both GM and Chrysler.

I supported carving out some of the Wall Street bailout funds to help U.S. automakers because unlike the money heading to Wall Street firms, the money provided to the automakers actually had a chance of preserving essential jobs in the United States. But that doesn't mean we should give auto companies a blank check, which is why I said that any Federal assistance provided to the automakers should come with requirements that the industry reform itself, including producing more fuel efficient cars that Americans are now demanding. When Congress failed to pass legislation to provide Federal loans to the auto industry, I applauded then-President Bush for stepping in and using some of the Wall Street bailout money to help the auto industry while also requiring that the companies submit restructuring plans.

Frankly, I am appalled that the automakers that received taxpayer assistance are not prioritizing the retention of American jobs, including jobs in Wisconsin. Over the past several months, I have heard concerns from the workers at the Chrysler Kenosha Engine Plant that work that Chrysler had promised to assign to the Kenosha plant might no longer actually be assigned to the Kenosha plant. At the same time, Kenosha's workforce told me that the same work would likely continue as scheduled at a plant in Mexico.

In response to these concerns, I led a letter in early April, cosigned by Senator KOHL, Representative RYAN, and Representative MOORE, to Secretary Geithner and National Economic Council Director Larry Summers. The letter urged the administration to consider including a priority for saving auto manufacturing jobs in the United States as the administration worked with the auto companies to craft restructuring plans. I received a response from Secretary Geithner that said it was the administration's hope that any Chrysler restructuring deal “will help ensure that we retain as many Chrysler jobs as possible in Wisconsin . . .”

Despite this assurance, the Kenosha community found out through media last week that in fact no Chrysler jobs would be retained at the Kenosha Engine Plant. Instead the Kenosha community was informed that the Kenosha plant would close by the end of 2010 while a Mexican plant slated to build the same product that has been promised to the Kenosha facility would remain open.

This news, which was not heard directly from the company itself, outraged the Kenosha community and other Wisconsinites who believe that

their tax dollars should not be used to save jobs overseas, but should instead be used to save jobs in the United States and in Wisconsin—and rightly so. The Federal delegation, State and local officials, and the Kenosha workforce are united in working together to try to persuade the administration and Chrysler to reconsider this terrible decision.

I understand tough decisions need to be made as these companies restructure themselves. But both Chrysler and GM have received billions of American taxpayer dollars since December and the companies as well as the administration need to take steps to help ensure that those taxpayer dollars are being utilized for the purpose they were intended—to save American jobs. If Chrysler is going to close the Kenosha plant as well as other domestic plants while keeping its overseas facilities open, then we need to think seriously about whether it is in the interest of the American taxpayers to provide continued financial assistance to the company.

There may still be some hope for the Chrysler Engine Plant in Kenosha and the GM Assembly Plant in Janesville, and other American plants—if the administration steps up. The Janesville community is waiting to hear whether or not the incentive package it presented to GM will be accepted and the Kenosha community is waiting to hear whether Chrysler's decision to close the Kenosha plant will be reconsidered. Over the years, both the Kenosha and Janesville workers have been commended for their productivity, their creativity, and their willingness to negotiate fairly with the management at each plant and both communities are great locations for retooled auto companies to thrive in the future.

The first priority of any company receiving Federal taxpayer assistance should be to preserve jobs within the United States and I call upon the administration, Chrysler, and GM to reexamine their restructuring plans to make the preservation of U.S. jobs the top priority of these plans. I will continue to do all I can to support Wisconsin's workers and local communities in their efforts both to respond to these decisions and to ensure these auto companies prioritize saving auto manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin as the restructuring process moves forward in the coming days and weeks.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

WEAPON SYSTEMS ACQUISITION REFORM ACT OF 2009—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 454, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 454) to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1052, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I now send a modified Murray amendment to the desk and ask that it be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], for Mrs. MURRAY and Mr. CHAMBLISS, proposes an amendment numbered 1052, as modified.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 207. EXPANSION OF NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 2501 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) Maintaining critical design skills to ensure that the armed forces are provided with systems capable of ensuring technological superiority over potential adversaries.”.

(b) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS UPON TERMINATION OF MDAPS OF EFFECTS ON NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS UPON TERMINATION OF MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM OF EFFECTS ON OBJECTIVES.—(1) Upon the termination of a major defense acquisition program, the Secretary of Defense shall notify Congress of the effects of such termination on the national security objectives for the national technology and industrial base set forth in subsection (a), and the measures, if any, that have been taken or should be taken to mitigate those effects.

“(2) In this subsection, the term ‘major defense acquisition program’ has the meaning given that term in section 2430 of this title.”.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Senator MURRAY introduced an important amendment yesterday and spoke about it last night. It is intended to make certain that when the Secretary of Defense looks at the question of cost and whether weapon systems should be continued, that at least the Secretary looks into the impact on the industrial base.

The amendment has been modified now in a way that makes this accept-

able. The Senator from Washington has put her finger on a very significant issue, which is the industrial manufacturing base of the country. But it has been modified in a way that would not make it difficult or impossible for us to do what we need to do relative to ending the production of weapon systems which, for instance, are no longer useful or have so outlived or outdone the expectations for the system and exceeded the expected expense that they are no longer practical in terms of their continued production.

So she has raised an important issue. It will be considered by the Secretary of Defense when these decisions are made. But the thrust of our bill is to make it possible to end the production of weapon systems if they are so costly that they no longer make sense or if they are not working effectively. That is the thrust of this bill, the heart of the matter. Her contribution does not detract or diminish that important point of our bill.

So we support that modified amendment and ask that the Senate adopt it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendment? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified.

The amendment (No. 1052), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

AMENDMENT NO. 1057

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to call up amendment No. 1057, offered by the Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. COBURN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN], for Mr. COBURN, proposes an amendment numbered 1057.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require a plan for the elimination of weaknesses in operations that hinder the capacity to assemble and assess reliable cost information on assets acquired under major defense acquisition programs)

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 207. PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF WEAKNESSES IN OPERATIONS THAT HINDER CAPACITY TO ASSEMBLE AND ASSESS RELIABLE COST INFORMATION ON ACQUIRED ASSETS UNDER MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth a plan to identify and address weaknesses in operations that hinder

the capacity to assemble and assess reliable cost information on the systems and assets to be acquired under major defense acquisition programs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Mechanisms to identify any weaknesses in operations under major defense acquisition programs that hinder the capacity to assemble and assess reliable cost information on the systems and assets to be acquired under such programs in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

(2) Mechanisms to address weaknesses in operations under major defense acquisition programs identified pursuant to the utilization of the mechanisms set forth under paragraph (1).

(3) A description of the proposed implementation of the mechanisms set forth pursuant to paragraph (2) to address the weaknesses described in that paragraph, including—

(A) the actions to be taken to implement such mechanisms;

(B) a schedule for carrying out such mechanisms; and

(C) metrics for assessing the progress made in carrying out such mechanisms.

(4) A description of the organization and resources required to carry out mechanisms set forth pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2).

(5) In the case of the financial management practices of each military department applicable to major defense acquisition programs—

(A) a description of any weaknesses in such practices; and

(B) a description of the actions to be taken to remedy such weaknesses.

(c) CONSULTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the report required by subsection (a), the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense shall seek and consider input from each of the following:

(A) The Chief Management Officer of the Department of the Army.

(B) The Chief Management Officer of the Department of the Navy.

(C) The Chief Management Officer of the Department of the Air Force.

(2) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—In preparing for the report required by subsection (a) the matters covered by subsection (b)(5) with respect to a particular military department, the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense shall consult specifically with the Chief Management Officer of the military department concerned.

Mr. MCCAIN. I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 1057) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEVIN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I believe there is a Senator coming over to speak, and I think that is the last speaker on this bill that I know of. So in the meantime, awaiting his arrival, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I agree with Senator MCCAIN that we know of no more amendments that are going to